

**JOINT STATEMENT
of Political Parties and
Public Organizations**

**Pyongyang, Korea
January 1983**

For a long period of 38 years our people have undergone immeasurable calamities and sufferings due to the division of the nation and gone through many twists and turns for the attainment of national reunification.

In the prolonged tragedy of national division, those of the old generation who earnestly desired reunification have departed us without seeing it and a great many public-spirited men and patriotic youths have shed their precious blood on the rugged path of reunification for national salvation.

But, despite so earnest cries of the nation and its great sacrifices, no gleam of reunification is yet in sight.

The root cause of this intolerable national tragedy is not to be found within our nation.

All the Koreans, except a handful of lackeys, want reunification and our desire for it is hotter than fire.

The misunderstanding and distrust, confrontation and antagonism between the north and the south are not what the Koreans brought themselves.

It is none other than the US imperialists who have thrown cold blankets over the earnest wish of our people for reunification, fostered confrontation and antagonism between north and south and barred the reunification of our country.

This is clearly borne out by the nearly 40 year long history of national division full of ordeals and the history of the patriotic struggle for national reunification full of trials. From the very day when they landed their troops in south Korea under the pretext of disarming the Japanese army, the US imperialists established a military rule over it and lorded it over as the colonial ruler in place of Japanese imperialism. Disregarding the will of the entire Korean people to build a unified independent and sovereign state, they framed up the separate puppet government in south Korea by installing Syngman Rhee, a pro-US stooge, thus freezing the division of our country. In 1961 they staged a military coup through the fascist clique of Pak Jung Hi, their special-class stooge, and crushed with the bayonet the sentiments for reunification that raged furiously in south Korea after the April 19 Popular Uprising, and in 1980, two decades after that, brutally suppressed the Kwangju Popular Uprising by the same method through Chon Du Hwan the murderer, and crushed the mounting movement for democracy and the sentiments for reunification.

Though the US imperialists are loud-mouthed about "dialogue," feigning concern for the reunification of Korea, the question of Korean reunification has never been a matter of concern for them. They are only interested in keeping a grip on south Korea for ever as their colony and military base by perpetuating the division of our country.

For this invariable aggressive purpose, the US imperialists are egging the Chon Du Hwan puppet clique still today on to anti-communist confrontation against the north, persistently following the "two Koreas" policy.

Nowadays the US imperialists are goading Japan into hastening its militarization and tightening its collusion with the south Korean puppets, while bringing into the open the conspiracy to frame up a tripartite military alliance of the United States, Japan and south Korea. This is one more grave splittist move to keep a tighter grip on south Korea by detaching it farther from one Korea, and a new grave challenge disturbing peace and increasing tension in our country and the Far East.

Occupying south Korea, the US imperialists have converted south Korea into the biggest nuclear base and powder magazine in the Far East by shipping larger quantities of new-type weapons and combat equipment than ever before, and they plan to stage the "Team Spirit 83" joint military exercise, the largest of its annual series, from February 1 this year to bring the situation in our country closer to the brink of war.

It is clear to everyone what calamities these developments would spell to our fellow countrymen in the future.

South Korea can never be a state of America or its frontline defence area. It is an inseparable half territory of Korea.

The south Korean people cannot share the common destiny with the US and Japanese aggressors across the sea. They are the same fellow countrymen with their kith and kin in the north who will share the same destiny for ever.

An immediate stop must be put to the US imperialists' vicious scheme to separate north and south farther apart from each other, turn south Korea into a dual colony of the United States and Japan and sacrifice the south Korean people for their war policy.

So long as the US imperialist aggression troops occupy south Korea and the US imperialists' aggression and interference continue, the question of our country's reunification cannot be settled nor can the danger of war be removed from our country.

The US imperialist aggression forces' occupation of south Korea and their colonial rule are at variance with peace in our country and her peaceful reunification.

All those who are truly concerned for the destiny of the country and the future of the nation should accept this as the most serious lesson in the bloody history of the reunification movement and face the grim reality today from this lesson.

From this point of view, we consider it the primary task in promoting the country's reunification at the present juncture to force the US imperialist aggression forces out of south Korea and end US aggression and interference.

The more urgent the reunification of the country and peace are, the faster the US imperialist aggression forces must be forced out of south Korea.

Herein lies the basic guarantee for terminating the heartrending history full of setbacks of vicious cycles and going straight to the independent and peaceful reunification desired by all the fellow countrymen, and a clear prospect for our country to advance along the road of independence and prosperity, not falling a victim to foreign forces.

It is a deception and empty talk to mention "unification" and "dialogue," ignoring this pressing task to make the US forces withdraw from south Korea.

Proposing to "unify the country," leaving the US imperialist aggression forces in south Korea, virtually means to refuse reunification and want to live in "two Koreas."

The so-called "proposal for democratic unification through national reconciliation" advertised by the Chon Du Hwan clique is such, and so are the "north-south dialogue" and "summit talks" brought forward by them.

If they want reunification, they should, first of all, make the US forces pull out of south Korea. And, if they want a dialogue, they should demand this before anything else.

The attitude toward the US imperialist aggression forces present in south Korea is the touchstone distinguishing between the line of reunification and the splittist line and the yardstick discriminating between patriotism and treachery.

We will readily meet and have a dialogue, on the basis of the common aspiration for reunification and patriotic stand, with anyone of south Korea who is not a traitor like Chon Du Hwan but demands the withdrawal of the US imperialist aggression forces.

If the political parties and social organizations of south Korea demand the withdrawal of the US troops, we are ready to meet and discuss with them the problem associated with US troop pullout from south Korea, not asking their past.

Out of this desire, we call upon the political parties and social organizations of south Korea to vigorously wage a nationwide patriotic movement to force the US troops out of south Korea by joint efforts of the north and the south and propose the convocation of a joint conference of the political parties and social organizations in the north and the south to discuss this pressing question.

This joint conference would be participated in by a proper number and ratio of representatives of the political parties and social organizations in the north and the south and

representatives of overseas Koreans' organizations and individuals at home and abroad by agreement between the two sides.

For a successful convocation of this joint conference, it is desirable, above all, to hold preliminary talks of representatives of political parties in the north and the south, with the participation of one working-level representative respectively from the Workers' Party of Korea, the Korean Social Democratic Party and the Chondoist Chongu Party in the north and the Democratic Justice Party, the Democratic Hanguk Party and the Hanguk National Party in the south.

We expect an affirmative response of the south Korean political parties and social organizations and overseas Koreans' organizations to our patriotic proposal permeated with the noble aspiration for reunification and national salvation.

The Workers' Party of Korea

The Korean Social Democratic Party

The Chondoist Chongu Party

The Central Committee of the Democratic Front for the Reunification of the Fatherland

The Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland

The General Federation of Trade Unions of Korea

The League of Socialist Working Youth of Korea

The Union of Agricultural Working People of Korea

The Korean Democratic Women's Union

The Korean General Federation of the Unions of Literature and Arts

The Korean Journalists Union

The Korean General Federation of Industrial Technology

The Korean Christians Federation

The Central Guidance Committee of the Korean Chondoists Association

The Korean Buddhists Federation

The Consultative Council of Former South Korean Politicians in the North for the Promotion of Peaceful Reunification

The Korean Democratic Lawyers Association

The Korean Students Committee

The Korean Committee for Solidarity with World People

The Korean Committee for Asian-African Solidarity

The Korean National Peace Committee

Pyongyang, January 18, 1983